



Arizona State Forestry Division
Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions
Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico
National Park Service, Intermountain Region
New Mexico State Forestry Division
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
U. S. Forest Service



For Immediate Release

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New Website Launched For Fire Restriction & Closure Information

Website will serve as the “one-stop shop” for fire restriction & closure information across Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas, and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Albuquerque, NM; March 15, 2013—This fire season local, state and federal land management agencies within the Southwest Area will use a new interagency website: [Firerestrictions.us](http://firerestrictions.us) and other tools to communicate fire restriction and closure information.

At this time, there are no wildland fire restrictions or closures in effect across the Southwest Area, which includes: Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas, and the Oklahoma Panhandle. As weather conditions continue to become warmer and dryer, we urge individuals to be fire safe as they work and play outside.

[Firerestrictions.us](http://firerestrictions.us) highlights include:

- Dynamic Google based map – residents and visitors can find restriction and closure information by clicking on the county/management unit—forest or park, of interest. Users are strongly encouraged to verify all information by reading the text, or by calling the agency/tribe that manages the area they are visiting.
- Fire restriction and closure information in text format with links to specific agency information.
- Stage and closure definitions.
- RSS feeds.
- The new website will not replace existing websites or information hotlines. The website will be “linked to” from other state wildfire information websites and agency websites.
- Site disclaimer – the website is not a real-time, although the goal is to keep the website updated with accurate information.
- The website displays fire restriction and closure information for 10 states. Each state’s webpage can be accessed from the national website.

The purpose of restrictions and closures is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during periods of unusually high fire danger and/or burning conditions. Weather, moisture in the vegetation, number of human-caused and natural fire starts, firefighting resource availability, and other factors are considered in determining if wildland fire restrictions or closures are needed.

The purpose of the Southwest Coordination Group is to further interagency cooperation, communications, coordination, and to provide interagency fire management direction and support for the Southwest Area.

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